

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /062 W
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R 171814Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4664
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1014

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GY
SUBJECT: REMARKS OF PNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAMMIE
RAMSAROOP

SUMMARY: IN REMARKS TO WOMEN'S REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST MOVE-
MENT (WRSM) ON MAY 8, CAMMIE RAMSAROOP, PEOPLE'S NATIONAL
CONGRESS (PNC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORTEDLY ALLEGED THAT
USG ENCOURAGES BRAZIL'S HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARDS GUYANA. NOTING
THAT GUYANA WAS IN MONROE DOCTRINE AREA, RAMSAROOP STATED
THAT US OPPOSES SOCIALIST REVOLUTION HERE BECAUSE IT WILL
INFLUENCE OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW GUYANA'S
EXAMPLE. RAMSAROOP'S REMARKS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF SENTIMENTS
OF THOSE RADICALS WITHIN PNC WHO OPPOSE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH
US, BUT SUCH EXPRESSIONS ARE NO LONGER PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS,
AND AS US-GOG RECONCILIATION BECOMES MORE APPARENT, THEY WILL FIND
INCREASINGLY LESS POSITIVE RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, IN ADDRESS
TO WRSM ON MAY 8 PNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND
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MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, CAMMIE RAMSAROOP, WARNED THAT
GUYANA'S SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IS THREATENED BY HER
NEIGHBORS BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, AND SURINAM. VENEZUELA'S
ARMED FORCES ARE HOSTILE TOWARDS SOCIALISM. RAMSAROOP
CLAIMED THAT US ENCOURAGES BRAZIL'S HOSTILITY TOWARDS
GUYANA BECAUSE BRAZIL IS CENTER FOR US BASED MULTI-
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND US DOES NOT WANT TO SEE A

SUCCESSFUL SOCIALIST STATE NEXT TO THAT COUNTRY.

2. IN LARGER CONTEXT, RAMSAROOP POINTED OUT THAT SINCE GUYANA IS IN MONROE DOCTRINE AREA, IT MUST ALWAYS CONSIDER HOW US WILL REACT WHEN ADOPTING A PARTICULAR POLICY OR COURSE OF ACTION. ACCORDING TO RAMSAROOP, US FEARS THAT SUCCESSFUL SOCIALIST REVOLUTION HERE WOULD INFLUENCE OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES TOWARDS SIMILAR DIRECTION.

3. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, MINISTER OF INFORMATION SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY INSTRUCTED CHRONICLE REPORTER PRESENT AT SPEECH NOT TO REPORT RAMSAROOP'S REMARKS.

4. IN FOLLOWING SPEECH, A WRSM MEMBER WARNED HER AUDIENCE TO BE ALERT TO A RUMOR CAMPAIGN CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. SHE MAINTAINED THAT RUMORS CONCERNING PM'S HEALTH AND SHORTAGES OF FOODSTUFFS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH HELPED TO BRING ABOUT DOWNFALL OF ALLENDE IN CHILE.

5. COMMENT: RAMSAROOP'S REMARKS REFLECT VIEWS OF RADICAL GROUP WITHIN PNC WHICH IS OPPOSED TO RAPPROCHEMENT WITH US. THIS GROUP STILL CONSIDERS US PRINCIPAL ENEMY OF GUYANA. ALTHOUGH RADICALS HAVE SUPPORT AMONG YOUNG PNC MEMBERS AND IN THE YOUNG SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, THEIR VIEWS ARE FINDING LESS RESPONSE NOW THAN IN THE PAST. AS THE GOG PURSUES ITS PUBLIC POLICY OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE US, THE ARGUMENTS OF THE RADICALS SHOULD BE BLUNTED. UNFORTUNATELY, GIVEN THE ADVERSE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE GOG CANNOT AFFORD TO ALIENATE
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THE ACTIVE AND RADICAL SECTOR OF THE PNC BY SUPPRESSING THEIR EXPRESSION OF VIEWS.

6. MINISTER FIELD-RIDLEY'S REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PUBLISH RAMSAROOP'S COMMENTS REFLECT DUALITY IN GOG BEHAVIOR, I.E. THE GOG IS WORKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US AND WILL NOT PUBLISH SPEECHES SUCH AS RAMSAROOP'S BUT THE ENEMIES OF RAPPROCHEMENT CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE NOTED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ATTITUDES ABOUT THE US IN RECENT MONTHS. THIS IMPROVEMENT IS IN PART DUE TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS FORTHCOMING POSTURE ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. THE GUYANESE PERCEIVE THAT THE NEW US APPROACH TO NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANCE FOR GUYANA IN THE FORM OF US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF FROM ITS ACUTE ECONOMIC CRISIS. THESE FACTORS SUPPORT THE TREND HERE TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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